

ENCORE at a glance

ENCORE is funded by the **European Commission's Internal Security Fund** and its main objective is to strengthen the fight against corruption linked to the commission of pollution crimes (including illicit trafficking in waste; f-gases; and ozone-depleting substances). Reports from Europol and UNODC among others, as well as ongoing initiatives such as ECO-SOLVE Project and the revised EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking demonstrate that corruption is a cornerstone of environmental crime and that the commission of the latter also often involves offences linked to the former. In this context, ENCORE is an innovative project through its specific focus on waste, f gases and ODS trafficking, which recognizes law enforcement agencies' need for a greater understanding; improved risk analysis; and specialized training on corruption offences in this specific field.

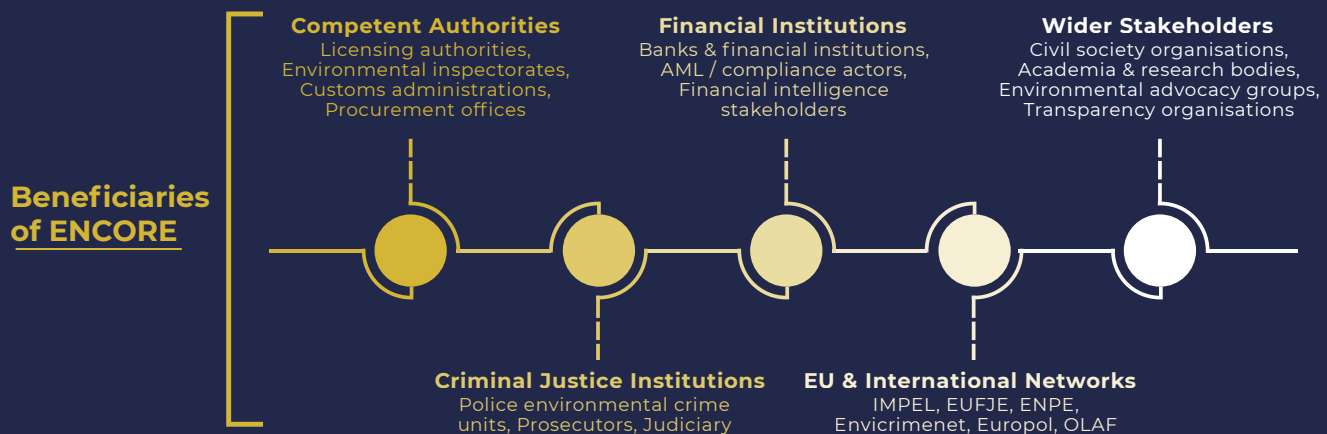
Project period: November 2025 - October 2027

Project budget: 900 000€

Objectives

The overall objective of ENCORE is to strengthen the fight against corruption as a facilitator of environmental crime (specifically: pollution crimes - waste, f-gases and ODS) and its five specific objectives are to:

1. Build the knowledge base on pollution crimes facilitated by corruption
2. Cross-pollinate expertise between environmental crime and anti-corruption experts
3. Support evidence-based policy-making
4. Develop good practices and risk indicators to build resilience against corruption
5. Increase the knowledge and practical skills of law enforcement personnel to investigate and prosecute those crimes



The ENCORE Consortium

ENCORE is carried out by an international consortium with extensive and multidisciplinary expertise, as well as national institutions from four European countries as associate partners.

Partners

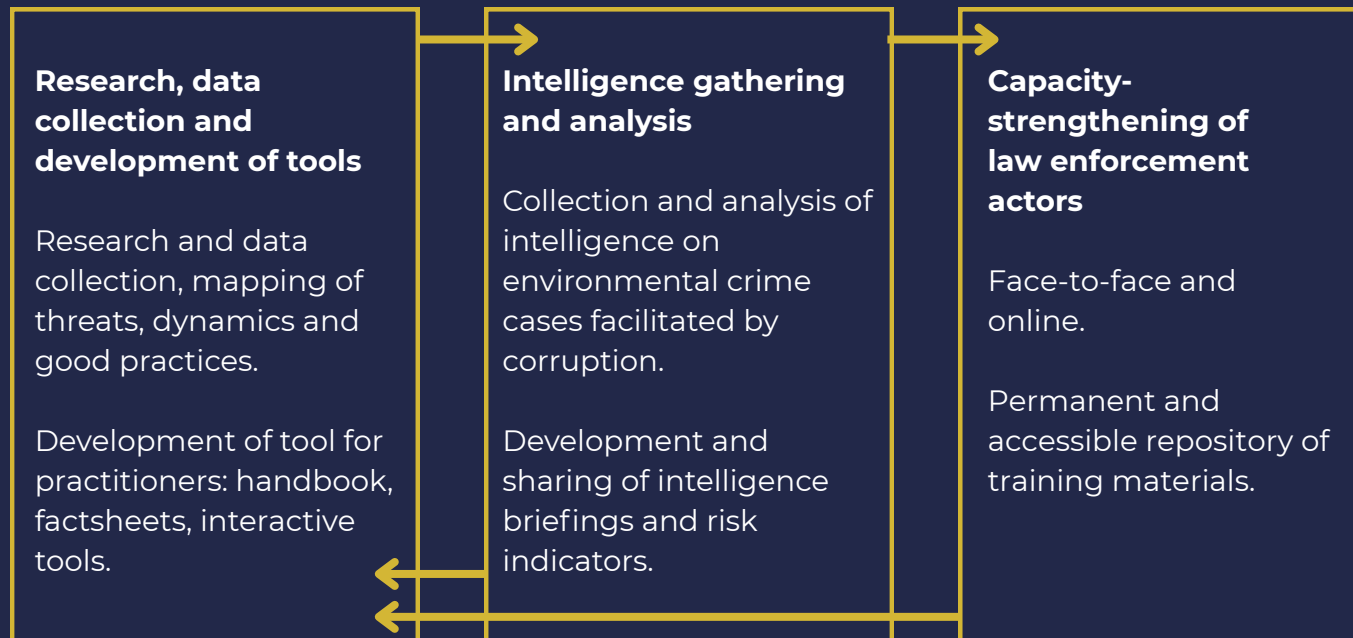
- The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (coordinator)
- Ambiendura
- Envicrime Academy
- World Resources Institute

Associate Partners

- SEPRONA (Spain)
- CESAN (France)
- State Environmental Inspectorate (North Macedonia)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (The Netherlands)

Activities

The project's activities are articulated in three mutually reinforcing pillars:



ENCORE's **research** activities focus on the collection and analysis of data and information regarding corrupt practices within pollution crimes, as well as the innovative tools used to detect and investigate such cases. The research aims to identify good practices, enforcement gaps, modus operandi, and opportunities for improving the investigation of pollution-related corruption. Findings will be compiled into tailored practical tools for different audiences: enforcement agencies, policymakers, investigative journalists, NGOs, and the general public. These outputs will directly feed into the activities of the capacity-strengthening and intelligence analysis pillars.


The project includes **capacity-strengthening** activities to address specific gaps identified in law enforcement training in the EU in relation to the intersection of pollution crimes and corruption. It will provide a bridge between the expertise of agencies specialised on pollution crime and those specialised on corruption, allowing for mutual learning through both in-person and online training. This pillar will benefit from the extensive research and intelligence and risk analysis activities conducted under the other two pillars.


Finally, ENCORE's **intelligence analysis** activities will enhance the detection and prevention of corruption linked to pollution crimes by systematically gathering and analyzing information on illicit activities such as the plastic waste trade, textile waste exports, and the trafficking of HFCs and ODS into and out of the EU. This pillar focuses on deepening the understanding of how corruption facilitates these crimes by examining intelligence on methodologies, legal loopholes, and red flag indicators. The insights gained will be shared with law enforcement agencies, the financial sector, and anti-corruption bodies to strengthen their ability to identify and address these offenses. Additionally, this pillar will include raising awareness within police, key enforcement agencies and other stakeholders about the specific ways corruption is used to enable pollution crimes, and it recommends both policy and practical interventions to counteract these effects.

CONTACTS

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